

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 /080 W

-----290308Z 087931 /20

R 281316Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4901

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0264

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ZA, RH

SUBJ: FONMIN MWALE DEFENDS GRZ SUPPORT OF PATRIOTIC FRONT

BEFORE PARLIAMENT

REF: (A) LUSAKA 196, (B) LUSAKA 187

SUMMARY: PARLIAMENTARY OPPOSITION TO THE GRZ' SUPPORT FOR THE PATRIOTIC FRONT HAS FAILED TO SUBSIDE. FONMIN MWALE SPEAKING BEFORE PARLIAMENT JAN 27 WAS ALMOST SHOUTED DOWN WHEN HE DEFENDED THE GRZ' ACTION. MWALE LASHED OUT AT MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE AND CAUTIONED MPS THAT THEY MUST BACK GRZ POLICY OR RISK GIVING COMFORT TO THE ENEMY. END SUMMARY

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1. IN HIS ADDRESS TO PARLIAMENT, MWALE APPEALED TO THE NATION TO INCREASE ITS SUPPORT FOR THE ARMED STRUGGLE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. HIS APPEAL WAS ALMOST DROWNED OUT BY HOSTILE INTERRUPTIONS BY MPS DEMANDING TO KNOW WHAT STRUGGLE HE WAS TALKING ABOUT SINCE ZAMBIA HAD ALREADY WON ITS INDEPENDENCE. IN REPLY MWALE WARNED THE MPS THAT IN ASKING THAT ZAMBIA REMAIN NEUTRAL ON SOUTHERN AFRICA,

THEY WERE FORGETTING THAT THE SITUATION IN RHODESIA, NAMIBIA, AND SOUTH AFRICA THREATENED PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE REGION. HE CAUTIONED THE MPS THAT, IF THEY APPEARED TO BE DIVIDED IN THEIR BACKING FOR THE RECOGNITION OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT, THEY WOULD "ONLY DEMORALIZE THE MASSES AND GIVE THE ENEMY THE CHANCE TO ATTACK THE COUNTRY." MWALE TOLD PARLIAMENT THAT THE NEED FOR INCREASED VIGILANCE AND SUPPORT HAD BEEN INTENSIFIED BY VORSTER'S REPORTED STATEMENT TO RICHARD THAT "SOUTH AFRICA WOULD SEND TROOPS TO RHODESIA IF THE NEED AROSE." AFTER YEARS OF SUPPORTING THE LIBERATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA, "IT IS RATHER TOO LATE TO BACK OUT NOW."

2. MWALE DEFENDED RECOGNITION OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT REPRESENTED THE ONLY FIGHTING FORCES ENGAGED IN THE LIBERATION OF ZIMBABWE. AS FOR SITHOLE, HE WAS DENOUNCED BY HIS FOLLOWERS IMMEDIATELY AFTER HE CAME OUT OF PRISON AND MUZOREWA IS A LATE COMER WHO "JUMPED ON THE BANDWAGON OF THE FREEDOM STRUGGLE IN RHODESIA AT THE LAST MOMENT." "THE RANTINGS OF THESE TWO," SAID MWALE, "SHOULD BE TREATED WITH CONTEMPT."

COMMENT: AS NOTED PREVIOUSLY (REFTELS), SOME MPS ARE CONCERNED THAT IN SUPPORTING THE PATRIOTIC FRONT THE GRZ MAY BE INTERJECTING ITSELF INTO THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ZIMBABWE, AND WORSE, MAY BE BACKING THE WRONG HORSE. ANOTHER ELEMENT IN THE MPS' HOSTILITY IS THE SENTIMENT THAT ZAMBIA HAS SUFFERED ENOUGH FOR THE RHODESIANS, WHO ARE PROVING TO BE AN UNGRATEFUL LOT, ALWAYS FIGHTING AMONG

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THEMSELVES, AND THAT FROM NOW ON THE RHODESIAN BLACKS SHOULD BE LEFT TO FIGHT THEIR OWN BATTLES. THE EMBASSY CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT THE GRZ WILL TAKE LITTLE ACCOUNT OF THE MPS' OPPOSITION WHEN IT COMES TO DEFINING SOUTHERN AFRICAN POLICY. LOW

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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